

**OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS  
RENDERED BY THE INTER-  
NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

*Edited by*

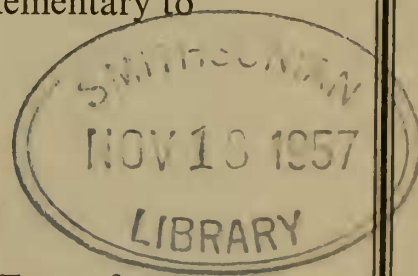
**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

Secretary to the Commission

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**DIRECTION 79**

Substitution on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* of the specific name *brasiliensis* Gmelin (J.F.), 1788, as published in the combination *Mustela lutris* var. *brasiliensis*, for the specific name *sambachii* Gray (J.E.), 1837, as published in the combination *Pteronura sambachii* (Class Mammalia) (*Direction* supplementary to *Opinion* 384)



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN DIRECTION 79

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### B. The Members of the Commission

(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*)

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Dr. K. H. L. KEY (*Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

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Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm KÜHNELT (*Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria*) (6th November 1954)

Professor F. S. BODENHEIMER (*The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel*) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTENESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale "G. Doria", Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

## DIRECTION 79

SUBSTITUTION ON THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" OF THE SPECIFIC NAME "BRASILIENSIS" GMELIN (J.F.), 1788, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "MUSTELA LUTRIS VAR. BRASILIENSIS", FOR THE SPECIFIC NAME "SAMBACHII" GRAY (J.E.), 1837, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "PTERONURA SAMBACHII" (CLASS MAMMALIA) ("DIRECTION" SUPPLEMENTARY TO "OPINION" 384)

**RULING** :—(1) The specific name *brasiliensis* Gmelin (J.F.), 1788, as published in the combination *Mustela lutris* var. *brasiliensis*, is hereby substituted for the specific name *sambachii* Gray (J.E.), 1837, as published in the combination *Pteronura sambachii*, as Name No. 653 on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

(2) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name Numbers severally specified below :—

- (a) *brasiliensis* Brisson, 1760, as published in the combination *Lutra brasiliensis* (invalid because published in a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature) (Name No. 473) ;

- (b) *brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780, as reputed incorrectly to have been published in the combination *Lutra brasiliensis* (a cheironym) (Name No. 474).

## I. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PRESENT “ DIRECTION ”

The present *Direction* is concerned with the rectification of an entry made on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 384 at the time when the generic name *Pteronura* Gray (J.E.), 1837 (Class Mammalia) was placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*. The circumstances relating to this matter were brought to the notice of the International Commission on 28th May 1957 in the following paper submitted by the Secretary :—

**Proposed substitution on the “ Official List of Specific Names in Zoology ” of the name “ brasiliensis ” Gmelin, 1788, as published in the combination “ Mustela lutris var. brasiliensis ” for the name “ sambachii ” Gray, 1837, as published in the combination “ Pteronura sambachii ” (proposed amendment of “ Opinion ” 384)**

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

The purpose of the present note is to report to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, and to express regret for, a point arising on the Ruling given in *Opinion* 384, by which certain generic and specific names in the Class Mammalia were placed on the *Official Lists*, which at the time of the preparation of the proposals dealt with in that *Opinion* escaped the attention both of myself as

Secretary and of the mammalogists who were consulted before those proposals were placed before the Commission. The facts of this case are set out below.

2. The above *Opinion* was primarily concerned with the addition to the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* of the names of genera of the Class Mammalia from species of which had been reported parasites common to Man. One of the generic names so concerned was the name *Pteronura* Gray (J.E.), 1837. This name is the oldest name for the genus concerned and by the Ruling given in the *Opinion* referred to above it was placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 959.

3. The type species of the above genus by monotypy is the nominal species *Pteronura sambachii* Gray (J.E.), 1837. As explained in the Report annexed to *Opinion* 384 (: 181—182), this species was formerly known by the specific name *brasiliensis* Brisson, 1762, or by the name *brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780. As there pointed out, the first of these names (*Lutra brasiliensis* Brisson, 1762, *Regn. anim.* (ed. 2) : 202), though binominal in form, is unacceptable, Brisson's *Regnum animale* containing many non-binominal names. In consequence that work does not satisfy the requirements of Article 25 of the *Règles* and the specific name *brasiliensis* accordingly possesses no status of availability as from Brisson's book. The second of the names mentioned above (*Lutra brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780) (*Geogr. Gesch. Mensch.* 2 : 316) is, as explained, in the above Report, a cheironym, Zimmermann having dealt with the species concerned under the vernacular name "Der Guachi", the word "*brasiliensis*" appearing only as being a name previously published for this species by Brisson.

4. For the reasons set out above it was concluded (correctly) in the proposals submitted in the present case that the name *sambachii* Gray, 1837, was not validly anticipated either by the name *brasiliensis* Brisson, 1762, or by a name *brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780. It was accordingly believed (incorrectly) that the name *sambachii* Gray, 1837, was the oldest available specific name for this species. It was recommended therefore that this name should be placed on the *Official List* and this recommendation was adopted, this name being placed on the above *List* with the Name No. 653. The defect in the recommendation so submitted resides in the fact that the specific name *brasiliensis* was applied to the "Gauchi" as from Brisson, or, more frequently, Zimmermann, by several authors before that species was given the specific name *sambachii* by Gray in 1837. Accordingly, it is the name *brasiliensis* as first validly used in this way and not the name *sambachii* Gray which is the oldest available name for the species here in question and which should have been placed on the *Official List*.

5. On this situation coming to light, correspondence was exchanged between Commissioner Cabrera and myself for the purpose of determining the earliest valid publication of the specific name *brasiliensis* as applied to the present species. As a result, Dr. Cabrera informed me that the first such publication of this name was that by Gmelin in 1788 (*in* Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(1) : 93) in the combination *Mustela lutris* var. *brasiliensis*, unless this name had been published earlier by Blumenbach in one or other of the early editions of his *Handbuch der Naturgeschichte*, a point which he was unable to clear up owing to the fact that the volumes concerned were not available to him. This portion of the investigation was accordingly undertaken by the Office of the Commission. There are three editions of Blumenbach's book which require consideration in this connection, namely the first, published in [1779—1780], the second, published in [1782], and the third, published in [1788] (the year in which also, as noted above, the portion of Gmelin's work containing the name *brasiliensis* was published). All three editions are in the library of the British Museum (Natural History). A careful search of these has been made by Miss D. N. Noakes, B.Sc., of this Office who has reported that in none of them did Blumenbach use the specific name *brasiliensis*. It may therefore be regarded as established that, as reported by Dr. Cabrera, the first valid use of the specific name *brasiliensis* for the present species was that by Gmelin in 1788.

6. That the error discussed above should have occurred is unfortunate and must now be made good. On the other hand, the correction now to be made has the advantage that it restores to the flat-tailed otter of Guiana and Brazil the specific name *brasiliensis* which has been widely used for it—though usually with the misattribution to Zimmermann, 1780—and is the name by which it is currently known. At the same time that the necessary adjustment is made on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, it will be well to place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* the invalid specific name *brasiliensis* Brisson, 1760, and the cheironym *brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780, referred in paragraph 3 above.

7. The recommendation now submitted is that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

- (1) substitute the name *brasiliensis* Gmelin, 1788, as published in the combination *Mustela lutris* var. *brasiliensis*, for the name *sambachii*, Gray (J.E.), 1837, as published in the combination *Pteronura sambachii* as Name No. 653 on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*
- (2) place on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*, the under-mentioned specific name and reputed

specific name :—

- (a) *brasiliensis* Brisson, 1762, as published in the combination *Lutra brasiliensis* (invalid because published in a work in which the author did not apply the principles of binominal nomenclature) ;
- (b) *brasiliensis* Zimmermann, 1780, as reputed to have been published in the combination *Lutra brasiliensis* (a cheironym).

**2. Registration of the present application :** Upon the receipt of Mr. Hemming's paper the question of substituting on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* the specific name *brasiliensis* Gmelin, 1788 (*Mustela lutris* var.) for the name *sambachii* Gray, 1837 (*Pteronura*) was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1153.

## II. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**3. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)9 :** On 28th May 1957 a Voting Paper (V.P.(O.M.)(57)9 was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal relating to the name *brasiliensis* Gmelin, 1788, as published in the combination *Mustela lutris* var. *brasiliensis* and matters associated therewith, as set out in paragraph 7 of the paper bearing the Registered Number Z.N.(S.) 1153 sub-

mitted by the Secretary simultaneously with the present Voting Paper ” [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Direction*].

**4. The Prescribed Voting Period :** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the One-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 28th June 1957.

**5. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)9:** At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)9 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty-three (23) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Lemche ; Stoll ; Hering ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Esaki ; Hankó ; Dymond ; Vokes ; Key ; Jaczewski ; Mertens ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Tortonese ; Bodenheimer ; Boschma ; Mayr ; Hemming ; Cabrera ; Prantl ; Kühnelt ; Bonnet ; do Amaral ;

(b) *Negative Votes, one (1) :*

Holthuis ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Miller.

**6. Declaration of Result of Vote :** On 29th June 1957, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)9, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 5 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted



and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

**7. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present " Direction " :** On 11th July 1957, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Direction* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(O.M.)(57)9.

**8. Original Reference :** The original reference for the specific name placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* in substitution for the name *sambachii* Gray, 1837, as published in the combination *Pteronura sambachii*, previously placed thereon as Name No. 653 by the Ruling given in *Opinion* 384 is as follows :—

*brasiliensis*, *Mustela lutris* var., Gmelin (J.F.), 1788, in Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1(1) : 93

**9.** The following are the original references for the specific names placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in the present *Direction* :—

*brasiliensis*, *Lutra*, Brisson, 1762, *Regn. anim.* (ed. 2) : 202

*brasiliensis*, *Lutra*, Zimmermann, 1780 [a cheironym, having the reputed reference :—*Geogr. Gesch. Mensch.* 2 : 316]

**10.** The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Direction* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

11. The present *Direction* shall be known as *Direction Seventy-Nine (79)* of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Eleventh day of July, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Seven.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING